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4 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Desirability of an Informal Discussion in Tomorrow's  
USIB Meeting Respecting the WSEG Study on a New  
Method of Soviet Employment of ICBMs

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.
2. You are, I believe, familiar with the recent WSEG study on ICBM "reprogramming." This, as you will recall, is a technique whereby the USSR could reduce its theoretical requirements for ICBMs to attack soft targets such as air bases.
3. Partly as a result of the WSEG study, we have included in the Terms of Reference of the forthcoming NIE 11-8-60 a reanalysis of Soviet ballistic missile requirements. In the reanalysis, which is to be done by CIA in consultation with the USIB representatives, we will examine the effect of "reprogramming" as well as other factors. For this purpose, we have accepted WSEG's informal offer to lend us a few days of analytical assistance and some time on their computer.

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4. The Terms of Reference for HIE 11-8 were approved by the USIB representatives on 30 March. At this meeting we did not bring up for discussion the WSEG study feeling that USIB principals should be sounded out as to (1) their knowledge of the study, and (2) their sentiments with respect to using the WSEG methodology (or variants thereon) in the 11-8 paper. By tomorrow all of the intelligence chiefs who have the biggest stake in 11-8 (State, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Joint Staff) will know of the study in question.

5. Recommendation: That, perhaps in executive session, you raise the desirability of using aspects of the WSEG methodology in the 11-8 paper. General Barnes and Howie Stoertz will be present to fill the Board members in.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
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